

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering portions of a television program, the method comprising:

receiving meta data corresponding to the television program, wherein the meta data identifies portions within the television program having certain characteristics and having been provided by first viewers of the television program, the meta data being organized into sets of meta data for the television program; and

for each of a plurality of second viewers,

selecting a set of meta data that the second viewer is entitled to access,

the second viewer not entitled to access all sets of meta data;

receiving from the second viewer input search criteria relating to characteristics of the television program;

searching the received meta data of the selected set of meta data to locate meta data that satisfies the input search criteria;

identifying one or more selecting portions of the television program that are identified by based on the received located meta data in response to user inputs, wherein identifying one or more portions of the television program searches the television program and only provides the portions that match the metadata; and

rendering to the second viewer the identified one or more selected portions of the television program

so that each second viewer can view different portions of the television program based on their input search criteria and the selected set of meta data provided by a first viewer of the television program that the second viewer is entitled to access.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the identifying-selecting comprises locating a next occurrence of user input search criteria in the meta data and determining a location of the television program corresponding to the next occurrence in the meta data, and wherein the rendering comprises beginning playback of the television program at the determined location.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the identifying-selecting comprises locating a plurality of occurrences of user input search criteria in the meta data and determining a plurality of portions of the television program corresponding to the occurrences, and wherein the rendering comprises rendering the plurality of portions.

19. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 16.

20. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a storage device to store a plurality of comments corresponding to media content; and

a comment handler, coupled to the storage device, to:

receive comments corresponding to the media content from a plurality of different sources that have viewed the media content that do not include an authors of the content and based on a plurality of different versions of the media content, each comment associated with a temporal location of the media content,

store the received comments and identifiers of associated temporal locations on the storage device, the comments being stored in a plurality of comment sets, and

make the stored plurality of comments available to devices rendering the media content; and

a component that receives a request for comments from a viewer, searches the comments of a specified comment set of the media content for comments that match the request, and renders to the viewer the portions of media content whose comments match the request.

21. (Original) A system as recited in claim 20, wherein one of the plurality of different versions is a live version and another of the plurality of different versions is a recorded version, and wherein the plurality of comments include both comments to the live version and comments to the recorded version.

22. (Original) A system as recited in claim 21, wherein the comments to the live version comprise a live discussion of users viewing the live version.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
allowing comments to be made by a plurality of viewers of a plurality of different versions of a program, wherein viewers do not include authors of the content;
consolidating the comments by storing the comments in different comment sets, each comment set associated with a particular group of viewers; and
making the comments of a comment set available to subsequent viewers of one of the plurality of different versions of the program or another version of the program by identifying the particular group of viewers that are associated with the comment set, and

making the comments of the comment set available only to viewers of the identified particular group of viewers.

25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the consolidating comprises consolidating the comments at a centralized location.

26. (Original) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the plurality of different versions include one or more of: a version stored on magnetic tape, a version stored on an optical storage device, and a streaming multimedia content version.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 24.

29-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A method comprising: identifying—selecting—a synchronization point in—for—a multimedia program such that the selected synchronization point can be identified in each version of the multimedia program based on analysis of content of that version of the multimedia program, wherein the synchronization point occurs an—at different amounts of time after the beginning of different versions of the multimedia program; and

using the synchronization point as a common temporal-reference point for the multimedia program, wherein the using comprises using the synchronization point as a reference point for a comment received from a viewer of the multimedia program, the comment for sharing with other

viewers of the multimedia program, such that when each version of the multimedia program is rendered, the synchronization point is identified and the identified synchronization point is used as a reference for the comment wherein the viewers are not authors of the multimedia program.

34. (Canceled)
35. (Original) A method as recited in claim 33, further comprising identifying a reference point that indicates an offset from the synchronization point.
36. (Original) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the identifying comprises receiving an indication from a source of the multimedia program of the synchronization point.
37. (Canceled)
38. (Canceled)
39. (Original) A method as recited in claim 33, wherein the identifying comprises using, as the synchronization point, a particular frame of the multimedia program.
40. (Original) A method as recited in claim 39, wherein the particular frame comprises a frame including a title screen of the multimedia program.
41. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 33.

42-75. (Canceled)